



MARSHAL MATTERS MAY 2021 EDITION

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Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez

May was Mental Health Awareness Month and the OSFM continues to provide resources to the first responder community to help support our brothers and sisters. Statistics show 1 in 4 people suffer from some form of mental illness in any given year. Firefighters are three times more likely to die from suicide than in the line of duty. According to the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, 105 firefighters took their own lives in the United States in 2014. The US Firefighters Association reports that about 10 percent of firefighters may be abusing illicit substances and that alcohol abuse among this population is more than twice the rates seen in the general public. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors among first responders are also common and

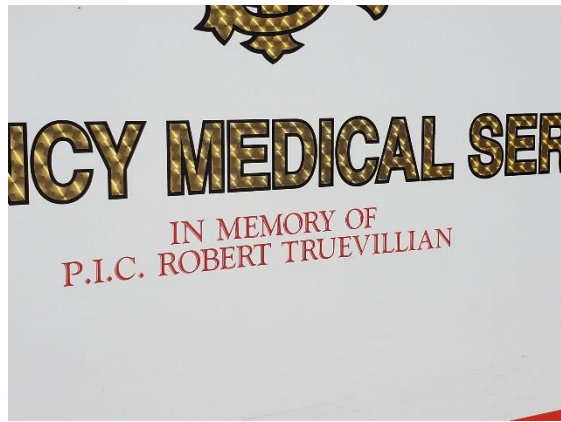
believed to be triggered or worsened by repeat exposure to trauma, including physical abuse and death among the people they serve, loss of people close to them, and life-threatening situations.

Help is available and know it's okay to ask for help. Visit sfm.illinois.gov, click on the resources tab, then click on Resiliency/Mental Health. This page has multiple resources available for all mental health related issues. These links are also included in this newsletter. If you are suffering in silence, don't suffer anymore, go get the help you need. Don't just do this for yourself, do it for your family, friends and your brothers and sisters in your department. If someone sees you getting help, they may be more inclined to search for help themselves.

Summer has arrived and that means many will begin to enjoy outdoor activities, including pools and lakes. May was National Water Safety Month. It's important that parents keep an eye on children who are playing in or around water. According to the American Red Cross, 69% of young children who drown were not expected to be in or near the water. Put your phone down and always keep them in sight. Get in the pool, especially with young children and make sure they are wearing approved floatation devices. Remember, it only takes a few second, long enough to take your eyes off them, for something to happen. If you have a pool at your home, ensure that the gates are locked, and no one is able to enter into the pool.

Life jackets are at the core of safe boating, whether using a motorized or non-motorized vessel. The U.S. Coast Guard reports 76% of boating deaths in 2017 were due to drowning, and 84% of the victims were not wearing a life jacket. If you plan to head out on a boat, make sure that everyone has a life vest and wears them. Accidents that are alcohol related are 100% preventable. Check the weather forecast before you head out and ensure you have multiple ways to receive forecast updates if there is a chance for storms. Have a safe and happy summer!

Robert Truevillian Badge Ceremony



The Chicago Fire Department honored fallen Paramedic Robert Truevillian in a ceremony adding his badge to the wall at the Quinn Fire Academy on Tuesday, June 18th. Robert lost his battle with COVID in December of 2020.

Following the ceremony at the fire academy, Robert Truevillian's family installed an inscribed stone at the Chicago Firefighter/Paramedic Memorial Park to honor Robert's service.

Fire Marshal Perez was in attendance and presented the family with a proclamation from Governor JB Pritzker and a flag.

Photos Courtesy: Chicago Fire Department.



Employee Spotlight

Laura Pemberton

HR Specialist

Where are you originally from? Grew up in Beardstown. Now residing in Rochester.

Tell us about your family? Three sons: (Adam Pemberton, 25, Matthew Pemberton, 23, and Michael Pemberton, 16) Significant other: Brad Long (as Roger likes to call him "Poor Brad")

Favorite food(s)? Lou Malnati's deep dish pizza, Saputo's breaded filet mignon, anything and everything from Joseph's Fine Cuisine!

Hobbies? Cooking/baking for family and friends, traveling, theater, reading, pool time, shopping, bicycling, hiking and, of course, riding on the back of

Brad's Harley!

What's your favorite movie or book? Favorite book of all time - "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck. Favorite movie – "The Help"

When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers? 80s Hair Bands!!! Motley Crue, Van Halen, Poison, you name it! If I'm in a mellow mood, you'll hear classical piano, such as, my fave, Claude Debussy.

What did you want to be when you were a kid? A lawyer (thanks to L.A. Law!). And, yes, I still would love to go to law school.

What's your favorite part of the job? Helping people...plain and simple. I love working at OSFM and assisting our employees with their human resources needs. New employee orientation is always fun because I enjoy meeting our new hires and guiding them through the benefits process and enlightening them on all the State of Illinois has to offer. My father worked for State Farm for over 30 years and insurance has always been a large part of my existence. I have a passion for educating others about all types of insurance and ensuring they are well protected in every area of life, especially when it comes to their health.

What's something unique about you? I took ten years of piano lessons and still love to play when I have the opportunity (although I'm quite rusty!). I am a two-time breast cancer "survivor".

Where is your favorite place to vacation? It's a toss-up between La Jolla, California and Napa Valley!

Where is your bucket list destination? I have a long bucket list, BUT Santorini, Greece is at the top along with biking through Italy's Tuscan wine country.

OSFM Graduates



Katherine Mears- Grad
School
University of San Diego
(Kathy Stashak)



Ross Jones- Grad School
Truman State
(Glen Jones)



Steven Kushner
Roosevelt University
(Mitch Kushner)



Moria Arnold
High School
(Kenny Arnold)



Teagan Bednarek
Homewood-Flossmore
High School
(Chris Bednarek)



Lauren Boone
Chatham-Glenwood
High School
(Jim Boone)



Celia Barna
Coe College
(Brian Barna)



Austin Wickenhauser
Southeast High School
(Ronny Wickenhauser)



Baylee Klees
High School
(Andrea Klees)



Lizzie Leonard
Williamsville High School
(Andrea Klees)



Danny Thomas
Glenwood Middle School
(John Thomas)



Mateo Thomas
Kindergarten
(John Thomas)

OSFM Celebrates 2021
Agency Family
Graduates!
#OSFMTogether



Terrynce Brown
Schrum Memorial
Middle School
(Terry Brown)



Francesca Capuani
Preschool
(Bob Capuani)

The groups next meeting is scheduled for June 10th. On the agenda will be the approval for the personal purchase of OSFM DEI logo apparel and novelty items will be on the next OSFM clothing committee agenda.



Arson Awareness Week



ARSON AWARENESS WEEK: MAY 2-8, 2021

Arson During Civil Unrest

Review these actions for a safe response to potential arson-related fires during civil unrest incidents.

Arson Awareness Week 2021 (May 2-8), highlighted the critical actions that first responders must take to help ensure a safe response to arson fires during periods of civil unrest.

According to the United States Fire Administration, an estimated 210,300 fires are intentionally set each year. Losses resulting from these fires included approximately 375 civilian deaths, 1,300 civilian injuries, and \$1 billion in direct property damage. The incidence of these fires typically peaks in March and April and again in July. In 2020, OSFM Arson Special Agents responded to 1,051 investigations and canine teams assisted in 230 investigations. In 2020, the OSFM's Arson Division closed 53 arson related cases with an arrest. The OSFM Arson Division consist of seven Accelerant Detection Canines and 15 Special Agents who aid and assist fire and police department across the state.

"Arson is a serious crime and I encourage communities and fire departments to work together to help raise awareness to prevent these fires that are costing people their lives and needlessly putting firefighters in dangerous situations. If you see something, say something," said Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez. "I encourage departments to review their plans for dealing with arson related to civil unrest, as we have seen an increase in activity over the past year and a half. Keeping firefighter safe on the fireground should be a top priority, while still working to effectively protect the lives and property in their communities."

A statewide Arson Hotline, (800) 252-2947, has been established so that citizens may anonymously provide information about a suspicious fire that has occurred or may occur.

Arson fires are preventable through education and awareness such as the Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program. To request help from this program you can call 1-844-689-7882 or visit the OSFM website at www.sfm.illinois.gov.



Arson Awareness Week



"I've always enjoyed a good puzzle and adventure. Every investigation I conduct is a new puzzle, adventure and provides a new challenge. No two investigations are the same. Investigation is a team effort and I have the pleasure of working with great people from local, state, and federal agencies. Being able to determine the cause of the fire and provide closure to the victims is rewarding and is what makes the long hours and hard work worthwhile."



"If You See Or Hear Anything At All....Give Us A Call on the Illinois Arson Hotline at 1 800 252 2947."

OSFM Special Agent Mitch Kushner

Arson Awareness Week



OSFM Special Agent Vespa and Canine Ross visited the McKendree College Forensics Class during Arson Awareness Week. Agent Vespa talked about what investigators look for when called to a fire to aid and assist and an outlook on the job. Ross, as usual, stole the show!



On Monday April 12th and Tuesday April 13th, the OSFM participated in a 2-day Arson training program in Wilmington IL. Various types of fire scenes were simulated with various origin and causes in a donated residential structure and vehicle.

The 2 day training consisted of hands on evidence recovery, scene processing of both vehicle fires and structure fires, fatal fire scenes, how to read fire patterns, awareness of crime scenes, and a K-9 Presentation and Demos in the fire scenes by OSFM S/A Mike Kuban and K-9 Phantom and S/A Mitch Kushner and K-9 Zoe. It was a well-rounded group of law enforcement and fire investigators all working together to better the area in the investigation side of fires.



OSFM's Newest Arson Canines



OSFM welcomes Kit, one of our newest accelerant detection canines to the team. Kit will be working with Special Agent Shane Arndt in central and east central Illinois.

Welcome to the team and family Kit!

OSFM Welcomes Gigi, one of our newest accelerant detection canines to the team. Gigi will be working with Special Agent Mitch Kushner in the Chicago Area.

Welcome to the team and family Gigi!



OSFM Arson Canines



Canine Agent GG



Canine Agent Phantom



Canine Agent Sasha



Canine Agent Kit



Canine Agent Gunny



Canine Agent Ross



Canine Agent PJ

OSFM Accelerant Detection Canines

OSFM has seven certified accelerant detection canines and handler teams across the state. These teams aid and assist departments/districts in determining the cause and origin of fires. To learn more about the canine program visit:
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/About/Divisions/Arson/Pages/Arson-Canine.aspx>

Youth Firesetter Interventionist Class

Youth Firesetter Intervention Class

The Bloomington Fire Department will be hosting a Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program class for the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Here is the training information:

Date & Time: Thursday, June 24, & Friday, June 25, 2021

Registration is from 8:00 am to 8:30 am on Thursday, June 24

Place: Bloomington Fire Department – Station 6
4040 E. Oakland Avenue
Bloomington, IL 61704

If you would like to register for this training, please click here:

https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Events/Pages/YFSIPClass_20210624.aspx

This class is limited to **20 students** due to the current COVID-19 distancing safety measures.

There is a fee of \$100 per student for this class. Please make the check payable to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and mail it to the Office, prior to the training date:

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal
Arson Division – YFSIP
1035 Stevenson Drive
Springfield, IL 62703

For further information, please feel free to call (217) 415-7206 or email me

Simony.Weyforth@illinois.gov.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Bloomington!

Simony Weyforth

Youth Fire Setter Program Coordinator



International Fire Fighters Day



International Firefighters Day is observed every year on May 4th. Firefighters dedicate their lives to helping others and serving the communities they live in. Some firefighters volunteer their time, while other choose it as a profession.

According to firefightersday.org, "International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is a time where the world's community can recognize and honor the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible. It is also a day in which current and past firefighters can be thanked for their contributions."

The OSFM thanks our brothers and sisters who serve their communities and spend countless hours training, so when they are needed, they are there to help.



National Mental Health Awareness Month



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Firefighters are three times more likely to die from suicide than in the line of duty. According to the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, 105 firefighters took their own lives in the United States in 2014. The US Firefighters Association (USFA) reports that about 10 percent of firefighters may be abusing illicit substances and that alcohol abuse among this population is more than twice the rates seen in the general public. Statistics also show 1 in 4 people suffer from some form of mental illness any given year.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors among first responders are also common and believed to be triggered or worsened by repeat exposure to trauma, including physical abuse and death among the people they serve, loss of people close to them, and life-threatening situations.

Help is available and understanding that it's okay to ask for help is so important to preventing our first responders from becoming a statistic. The OSFM has compiled resources on our website for people who are looking for places to turn for help. Visit the OSFM website at sfm.illinois.gov and click on the resources tab at the top of the homepage. In the drop-down menu you will see a tab labeled Resiliency/Mental health, click on that to find a compiled list of helpful resources.



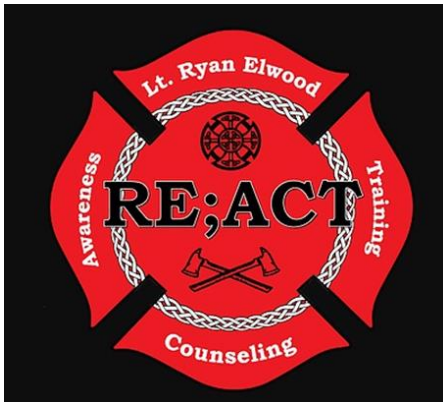


<https://www.therecoveryvillage.com/locations/iaff-recovery-center/>

<https://youtu.be/KvTppBARfGk>



National Mental Health Awareness Month



RE;ACT celebrated the life of Lt. Ryan Elwood, strives to create AWARENESS for the battle he fought, campaigns for much needed COUNSELING to help his fellow Fire Fighters and First Responders who face the same challenges each day and funds TRAINING to benefit the profession for which he was so passionate.

The semicolon is included as it has come to represent hope and love for those who are struggling with depression, suicide, addiction and self-injury.

<https://www.react4ryan.com>



As a national leader in training and education, the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) recognizes the importance of the physical and mental wellbeing of first responders. In August 2017, IFSI launched the First Responder Resiliency Project with the intent of promoting awareness of challenges that first responders face in the high stress profession. To learn more about this program visit:

<https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/resiliency/>



AA Illinois, a state-wide recovery resource devoted to supporting the men and women of Illinois. AA Illinois helps individuals struggling with alcoholism find the help they need on a local basis. Discover Illinois Alcoholics Anonymous meetings per county or city and take the next step to overcome alcohol addiction by clicking on the link below.

<https://alcoholicsanonymous.com/aa-meetings/illinois/>



CFO Graduation-East Peoria



2020 CFO Class



2019 CFO Class

The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association held the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) recognition ceremony during their annual conference on May 12th in East Peoria. Both the 2019 and 2020 classes were honored with 57 being honored from the 2019 class and 45 from the 2020 class.

The OSFM had two members honored at the ceremony, Fire Certification Specialist Lee Buxton (2019) and Fire Prevention Inspector Thomas Wendt (2020).

The successful Chief Officer of any organization must possess diverse knowledge and skills not prevalent in the traditional aspects. However, there is a growing recognition of the critical role that education must play in building a quality organization. The Chief Fire Officer Certification program addresses those current issues and will provide the Chief Executive Officer with the tools needed to be a progressive leader.

This program replaces the Fire Officer III Program and meets the requirements for OFSM certification at the newly established Chief Fire Officer level. The Chief Fire Officer program meets all the requirements at the N.F.P.A. Fire Officer III and IV level.



Fire Certification Specialists Lee Buxton



Fire Prevention Inspector Thomas Wendt

IFSI Minute

AN UPDATE FROM THE ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE



FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Message to the State and the Fire Service

When I visited the 2007 Fire College as a guest speaker it began my relationship with IFSI and the Illinois fire service. I would return to Fire College several times between 2007 and 2012 to teach leadership. I was privileged to share the stage with Mac McCastland, Eddie Enright, Matt Perez, and John Norman. What I did not know then, but I do now, is that those experiences were the seeds of my commitment to be a part of IFSI and the fire service in a more meaningful and permanent way.

In my view it was meant to be.

I retired from the Marine Corps in July of 2012 and became the Director of IFSI in September of 2012. Thus, began a second career in which I could continue to be part of something meaningful, something important, something that would help.

On 30 June 2021 I will retire for the second time in my life. A departure that is equal to, and in many ways, more impactful for me than my leaving the Marine Corps after 30 years of service. I have been your Director of IFSI for nearly 9 years. Together, I believe we have accomplished a great deal. The "together" I refer to encompasses so many people and organizations that have supported, partnered, and helped me and IFSI do our mission. The State Fire Marshal and his staff, as well as the many state fire service organizations---IFSI Advisory Committee, IFCA, IAFFPD, AFFI, IL MABAS, CFD, IFA, IEMA, ITTF, and the hundreds of fire departments and personnel across Illinois, have all contributed to our success.

You need to know that moving forward we are in good hands. On 1 July 2021, Chief Jim Keiken will become your new Director of IFSI. Jim has been at my side every step of the way since 2013. As my deputy, I included him in every aspect of my duties and vision for the Institute. The Illinois fire service knows Jim. The stakeholders, the firefighters, and IFSI know his commitment and passion for the fire service and the IFSI mission. They know he will listen and deliver---on time and on target.

I could not be happier nor more optimistic for the future of IFSI and the fire service with Jim leading the Institute.

Finally, I want to tell all my fire service friends and colleagues that, while I am leaving IFSI, I in no way intend to leave the fire service. It is my desire and goal to continue to support IFSI and the fire service in any way that is deemed meaningful and helpful. In the state or on the national stage, it is my hope that I can continue to support the fire service.

And regardless of the platform, location, or audience; I will forever be an unapologetic supporter and representative of IFSI and the Illinois fire service. Despite never having earned that "blue shirt", IFSI is where I learned the mission, values, and the extraordinarily honorable nature of what it means to be a firefighter. What it means to commit to the selfless mission of always being ready to help wherever and whenever needed.

So, I hope this is not good bye. But see you later.

Thank you for letting me in. Thank you for trusting me. Thank you for letting me help.

Be smart out there.

Semper Fidelis.

Colonel Royal P. Mortenson, USMC (Ret.)

Director, IFSI

IFSI NOTE: The Illinois Fire Service Institute will host a Retirement Open House for Colonel Mortenson on Friday, 18 June from 3:00pm-6:00pm in Champaign. Formal remarks at 5:00pm. RSVP is requested to fsi-retirement@illinois.edu. We invite all to attend.

If you are unable to attend the Open House, written well wishes can be submitted to: <https://go.illinois.edu/RPMRetirementMessages>

Memorial Day Remembrance



OSFM honors all those who gave their lives to preserve our freedoms we enjoy. We also remember and honor all of our brothers and sisters in the fire service who paid the ultimate sacrifice doing what they love to protect the citizens of their communities. Your heroic actions will always be remembered.



ILLINOIS

Armed Forces Day

HAPPY ARMED FORCES DAY

HONORING ALL IN THE U.S. MILITARY SERVICES

May 15th was Armed Forces Day. The OSFM thanks all the men and women who are serving in our Military. Thanks for your service and dedication to our great nation



Approved Fuel Containers

Illinois Regulation Standards



Red: Required for flammable liquids such as Gasoline



Blue: Required for Kerosene

Industry Standards, not required in Illinois



Yellow: Recommended for Diesel



Green: Recommended for combustibles like Motor Oil

Unapproved Everywhere



Never use any Unapproved Containers!



The OSFM received a few calls from fire departments concerned that people in their area might copy what was happening in the southeastern US during a brief fuel shortage. The OSFM compiled this sheet that shows the requirements in Illinois and industry standards for approved fuel containers.

Emergency Medical Services Week

EMS STRONG

This Is EMS: Caring for Our Communities

May 16-22, 2021 is the 46th annual National EMS Week. In 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS practitioners and the important work they do in our nation's communities. This year's theme is This Is EMS: Caring for Our Communities. Each year the number of calls for EMS continues to grow. In Illinois in 2019, EMS was the number one reason for response by Illinois Fire Departments.

Each day during EMS Week, a different topic was highlighted with resources provided related to those topics.

Monday – EMS Education Day

Tuesday – Safety Tuesday

Wednesday – EMS for Children Day

Thursday – Save-A-Life Day (CPR & Stop the Bleed)

Friday – EMS Recognition Day

The OSFM thanks the men and women how respond to the calls for help from members in their communities. Thanks for helping keep people in your communities safe and for all your hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Older Americans Month

Escape Planning for Older Adults



Your risk of dying in a home fire is greater as you get older. Knowing what to do if there is a fire can make a big difference.

- ✓ Know two ways out of every room. Practice using both ways.
- ✓ Remove any items that may block your way out of the room or your home.
- ✓ Discuss your fire escape plan with family and neighbors. Contact your building manager or fire department to discuss your plan if you need extra help escaping.
- ✓ Keep eyeglasses, keys, hearing aids and a phone within reach next to your bed.
- ✓ Practice your home fire escape drill twice a year.



Adults 65 and over are twice as likely to die in fires

May is Older American's Month. Adults 65 and older are twice as likely to die in fires. Review or create a fire escape plan with your older relatives that keeps their needs or limited mobility in mind. Practice that plan twice a year and adjust the plan as their needs change.

It's important to keep important personal items near your bed at night so you can grab them quickly as you leave during an emergency. Think about where the best place is to put these items and remember to practice your escape plan.

For more information and free resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov.



here to
image.





Can you hear your alarm?

If you can't, consider getting a strobe light that will flash or a bed shaker that will shake when the smoke alarm sounds.



Think about your needs.

Be sure to keep your glasses, hearing aid, cane or wheel chair close to your bed at night. If there is an emergency, you will be able to grab them quickly as you leave.

Home Fire Sprinkler Week

Each sprinkler is activated by heat. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire activates.

155°F



HomeFireSprinkler.org

Smoke cannot set off fire sprinklers.



HomeFireSprinkler.org

Fire sprinklers can stop a fire in less than **1½** minutes. Saving you, your family and your property.



HomeFireSprinkler.org

May 16-22 was Home Fire Sprinkler Week. This week raises awareness about the benefits of home sprinklers and how they are part of a complete system of home fire safety. This year, the focus about raising awareness on how quickly today's homes can burn and how home fire sprinklers are part of a fire safe community. Living with home fire sprinklers and how they integrate into a green home plan was also highlighted.

In homes without fire sprinklers, residents only have about 2-3 minutes to escape. Fire sprinklers can quickly extinguish a fire or help to suppress and limit damage until firefighters arrive.

Each sprinkler is activated by heat. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire activates. Sprinklered homes also help to limit greenhouse emission and save water.

To learn more visit:

<https://homefiresprinkler.org/home-fire-sprinkler-week-2021/>

May 16-22
2021



**HOME FIRE
SPRINKLER WEEK™**

A project of the NFPA® Fire Sprinkler Initiative® and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition®

sprinklered vs. nonsprinklered

Less greenhouse gas emissions

Reduced water usage



vs.



sprinklered

nonsprinklered



vs.



sprinklered

nonsprinklered

National Electric Safety Month

CONNECTED to SAFETY

Making your Home Safe and Efficient

Whether you're **working** from home, **learning** from home, or just **spending more time** at home, it is important to make sure your home is electrically safe, secure, and efficient. Learn how the **internet of things** and **smart devices** can improve your quality of life and **make your home safer**.

Home Energy Use



AIR CONDITIONING

17%



SPACE HEATING

15%



WATER HEATING

14%



LIGHTING

10%

AVERAGE YEARLY ENERGY USE BY ITEM *source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2015 Residential Energy Consumption Survey

Energy Efficiency Through Smart Devices



Smart refrigerators to **optimize temperature**



Optimize wash/dry times for **lowest energy costs**



Automated HVAC controls



Automated lighting



Remote / automated outlet controls

Prepare your Home for Safe and Efficient Energy Use



Use a **smart plug** or **power strip** to turn off power when devices are not in use



LED light bulbs last longer than traditional bulbs and use 25-80% less energy



Heat only the area you're in with **energy efficient space heaters**



Utilize **home automation** to control HVAC and lighting systems while not at home



Have an electrician **inspect your electrical system** every 10 years to avoid overloads

Home Electrical Safety Devices



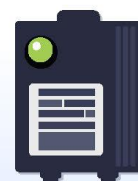
AFCI breakers and outlets protect against arc-faults which could lead to fires



Grounded outlets protect against electric shocks



GFCI outlets and breakers are required where water and electricity may come in contact and protect against ground-faults



Surge protectors protect against damaging power surges that can destroy electrical equipment

National Electrical Safety month is set aside every year to raise awareness on how to avoid potential electrical hazards. According to the National Fire Protection Association, 47,700 home fires in the U.S. are caused by electrical failures or malfunctions each year. These fires result in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage. Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires.

Save lives

ESFIdotorg

www.youtube.com/ESFIdotorg

National Electric Safety Month

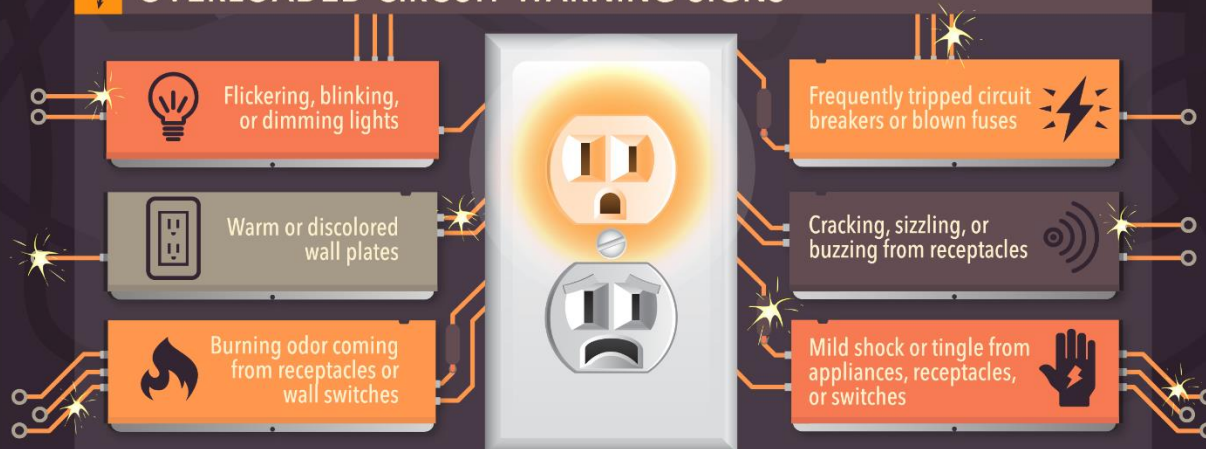
DON'T OVERLOAD YOUR HOME!



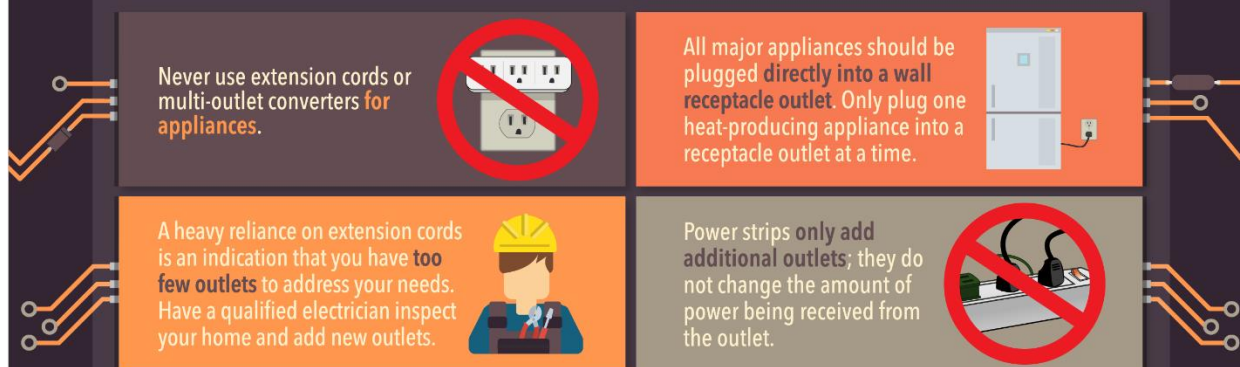
According to the National Fire Protection Association, **47,700 home fires** in the U.S. are caused by electrical failure or malfunction each year. These fires result in **418 deaths, 1,570 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage**. Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Help lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your electrical system.



OVERLOADED CIRCUIT WARNING SIGNS



HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRICAL OVERLOADS



50%

The CPSC estimates more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year can be prevented by Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs). To learn more about AFCIs, visit ESFI.org.



Only use the appropriate watt bulb for any lighting fixture. Using a larger watt light bulb may cause a fire.



www.facebook.com/ESFI.org



www.twitter.com/ESFI.org



www.youtube.com/ESFI.org

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Please share this free resource to save lives

International Museum Day



May 18th was International Museum Day. Take a step back in time to see antique and vintage firefighting equipment at the Illinois Fire Museum. The museum, located at the Old Firehouse at Main and Central Avenues on the state fairgrounds in Springfield, is open to the public by appointment. Please call 217-785-1030 to schedule a tour. The Museum is open daily during the Illinois State Fair, and no appointment is needed during that time.

Among the artifacts on display, the museum houses an antique horse-drawn hand pumper, a hand-pulled hose cart, and a ladder wagon with bronze horses at the ready.



Elevator Safety Division Field Staff Training



The Elevator Safety Division Field staff were in Springfield on May 11th for training. The Elevator Safety Division is responsible for implementing the Elevator Safety and Regulation Act through the registration, inspection, and certification of conveyances, and the licensing of contractors, mechanics, inspectors, inspection companies and apprentices. The Division assures that conveyances are correctly and safely installed and operated within the State of Illinois outside the City of Chicago by regulating the design, installation, construction, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, alteration and repair of elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, moving sidewalks, platform lifts, stairway lifts and automated people movers in accordance with all applicable statutes and rules.



RV Safety



Motor homes, campers, and recreational vehicles are used for living and traveling. Each year, fires in them cause deaths, injuries, and millions of dollars in damages. Fires can start in the kitchen. They can start in the engine area. Sometimes the fires are electrical. With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent these fires from happening.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms. Make sure they work.
- Stay in the kitchen while you cook. Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- Only use one heat-producing appliance plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time. Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet.
- Refrigerators, furnaces, ovens and stovetops use propane. Check them for leaks. Keep an updated gas leak detector on board.
- Have your propane system inspected to make sure it still works properly.
- Know two ways out. Make sure windows open easily.
- Have everyone practice the home fire escape plan.
- Do not keep camping heaters and lanterns on while sleeping.
- Before setting up a campfire, make sure it is allowed.
- If campfires are allowed, they need to be at least 25 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Have your vehicle serviced by a qualified mechanic.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher on board. Only adults who know how to operate it should use it. Only use it if the fire is small and can be contained. Make sure everyone else is leaving. Make sure someone is calling the fire department.



Carbon Monoxide Awareness

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. You cannot see it. You cannot taste it. You cannot smell it. CO poisoning can result from leaks in the exhaust. It can happen because of improper use of appliances. Sometimes CO comes from another vehicle. Make sure you have a working CO alarm.

FACT

When the vehicle is used as a structure, the most common area for these fires to start is the kitchen or cooking area. This is followed by the engine area, running gear, or wheel area. Check for safety inside and outside of the vehicle.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards



nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2017

National Water Safety Month

Memorial Day Weekend marks the "unofficial" beginning to summer and pool season. If you have a pool at your home, it's important to keep safety in mind; especially if children are around. According to the American Red Cross, 69% of young children who drown were not expected to be in or near the water. Keep these safety steps to help ensure safety around the pool this summer.

- 1) Setup Pool & Spa Barriers
- 2) Secure the Gates and Doors
- 3) Inspect Pool Drains and Drain Covers
- 4) Maintain the Pool & Cleaning Chemicals
- 5) Enforce Pool Safety Rules and Skills
- 6) Put phones away and watch children in or around the water at all times.

<https://www.safety.com/pool-safety-tips/>



Take the pool safety pledge:

- Designate a water watcher
- Make sure kids know how to swim
- Learn CPR
- Always remove portable pool ladders when not in use
- Ensure all permanent pools have a proper fence, gate and safe drain covers

<https://www.poolsafely.gov/pledge/>

Be there for those who need you

KEEP SUMMER FUN BY KEEPING KIDS SAFE



- Supervise**
 Never take your eyes off children in and around water.
- Use Barriers**
 Fences, self-closing/self-latching gates and secured doors with alarms can prevent young children from wandering into the pool.
- Avoid Entrapment**
 Suction from a pool's drain is so powerful it can trap an adult underwater. Check for broken or missing drain covers.
- Learn to Swim**
 To stay safe in the water, all family members should learn to swim well.
- Know How to Respond**
 Get training in basic water rescue skills, first aid and CPR. Have rescue equipment and a phone by the pool.

Partners in Drowning Prevention



U.S. Consumer Product
Safety Commission
CPSC hotline: 800-638-2772
and 800-638-8270 (TTY)



Sign up to receive free NSN
safety alerts and posters at
www.cpsc.gov

NSN-08-3

National Safe Boating Week



BOATING SAFETY TIP FOR

**MAY
23**

What do I need?

Essentials

- ☒ Life jackets
- ☒ Visual distress signals
- ☒ Sound producing devices
- ☒ Locator device (EPIRB or PLB)
- ☒ Fire extinguishers
- ☒ Navigation lights
- ☒ Water to stay hydrated
- ☒ Correct permits & decals
- ☒ Free vessel safety check
- ☒ File a float plan



SAFEBOATINGCAMPAIGN.COM

Reference to any specific commercial product, process or service, or the use of any trade, firm or corporation name is for the information and convenience of the public, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation or favoring by the U.S. Coast Guard.

BOATING SAFETY TIP FOR

**MAY
26**

How will weather impact my boating plans?

Weather forecasts are essential for making safe boating decisions. Check the National Weather Service for the latest forecast before leaving shore and carefully observe changing weather. Learn more at www.weather.gov.

Heavy winds
Extreme heat or UV Rays (remember your sunscreen!)

Thunder and lightning

Storm surges

Cold water boating



SAFEBOATINGCAMPAIGN.COM

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National Safe Boating Week was May 22nd – 28th. Life jackets are at the core of safe boating, whether using a motorized or non-motorized vessel. The U.S. Coast Guard reports 76% of boating deaths in 2017 were due to drowning, and 84% of the victims were not wearing a life jacket. You can find out more on which jacket is best for you and everyone in your family by visiting:

<https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/life-jacket-wear-wearing-your-life-jacket.php>

Creating a checklist before hitting the water for the day will not only help you not forget something important; it can also help keep you and your passengers safe.

Checking the National Weather Service forecast before heading out on a boat should always be your first step. Keep updated on weather conditions throughout the day. Keep a portable weather radio on hand in case of rapidly changing weather conditions.

Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents. 100% of fatalities from boating under the influence are preventable.



ALCOHOL USE

is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents



#safeboating

100%

of accidents and fatalities from boating under the influence are preventable.



#safeboating

OSFM Staff Changes/Kudos

OSFM New Hires

- Welcome Chris Tougeron!** Chris is a new Storage Tank Specialist stationed in Lake County.
- Welcome Michael Mayerhofer** who will be our Curry Intern.

OSFM Promotions

- Donna Berger** was promoted from Account Tech I to Account Tech II in Fiscal.
- Tammy Drews** was promoted from Office Assistant in Petroleum & Chemical Safety to Office Assistant in Fire Prevention Licensing.
- John Thomas** was promoted from Paralegal Assistant to Human Resources Representative.
- Frank Richter** Fire Prevention Inspector II was promoted to Fire Prevention Licensing to focus on enforcement.

Congratulations

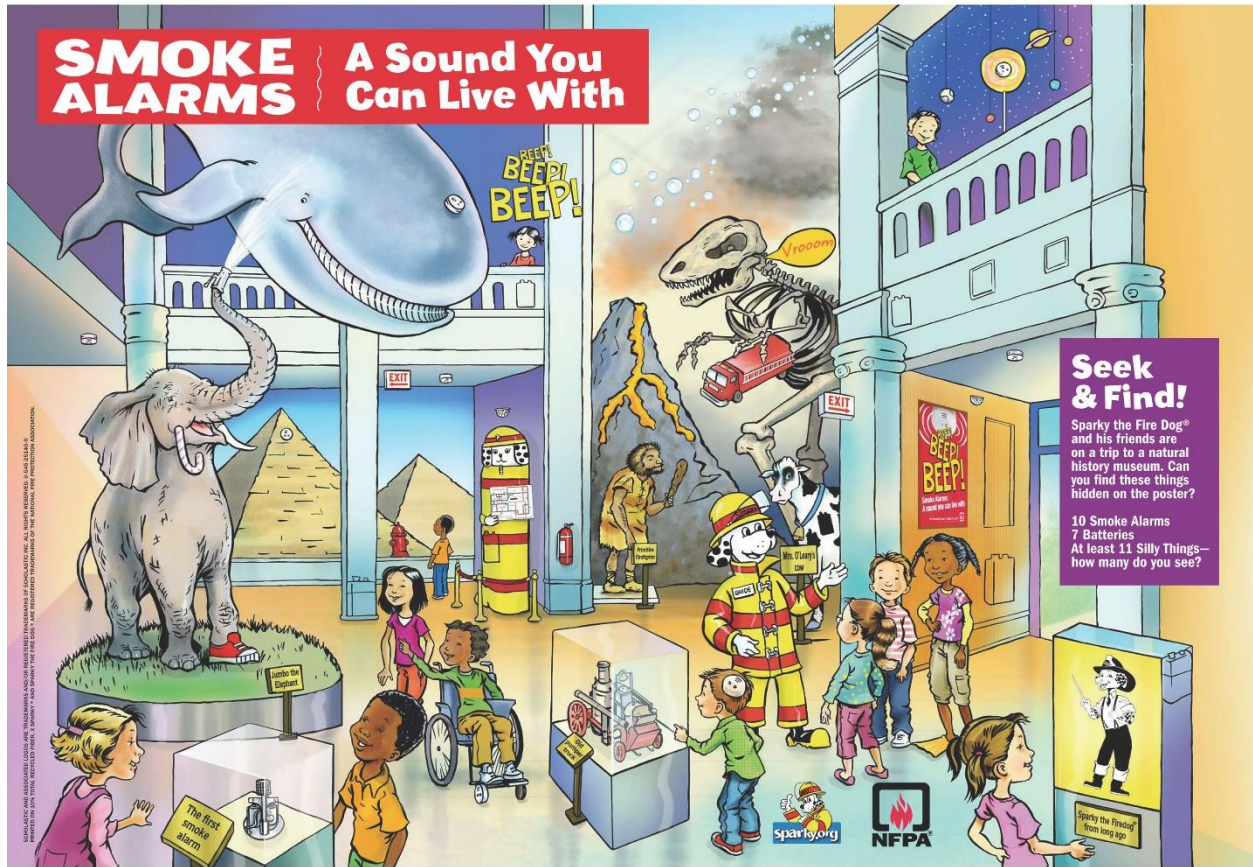
Bob Wetzel Fire Prevention Division

Our office reached out to Bob Wetzel, Illinois OSFM with questions about NICET Certifications levels. Mr. Wetzel was able to walk us through the OSFM's web site over the phone explaining where to look up Fire Sprinkler Contractor Information and Statues/rules regarding fire sprinklers. Mr. Wetzel also explained the NICET licensing levels and qualifications for a designated certified person. I would like to point out that Mr. Wetzel was very professional. He took time out of his busy day to explain in detail on how and where to find the answers to the questions we had. His expertise knowledge as a subject matter expert sets him apart from others.

*Daryle D. Wood
Rock Island Arsenal Fire Department /
Supervisory Fire Protection Inspector*



Kid's Corner



NATIONAL Water Safety MONTH

I'm a Safe Swimmer Pledge

To be a safe swimmer, I pledge:

- To never swim alone
- To never play or swim near drains or suction fittings
- To always dive feet first
- To always obey the pool rules

Pledged by: _____

Signature _____ Date _____ Age _____